

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 97-354-C - ORDER NO. 98-129

FEBRUARY 23, 1998

IN RE: Application of One Step Billing, Inc.	)	ORDER
for a Certificate of Public Convenience	)	APPROVING
and Necessity to Provide Resold	)	CERTIFICATE
Telecommunications Services and for	)	
Alternative Regulation.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") by way of the Application of One Step Billing, Inc. ("One Step" or the "Company") requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services to the public within the State of South Carolina through the resale of similar services offered by other interexchange carriers ("IXCs") in the state. The Company's Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-280 (Supp. 1996) and the Regulations of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. By its Application, One Step also requested that it be granted streamlined regulatory treatment similar to that granted to AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. ("AT&T") by Orders No. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C.

The Commission's Executive Director instructed One Step to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The purpose of the

Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of One Step's Application and of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. One Step complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice of Filing. No Petitions to Intervene was received concerning One Step's Application.

A hearing was commenced on February 11, 1998, at 12:00 p.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room. The Honorable Guy Butler, Chairman, presided. One Step was represented by John J. Pringle, Jr., Esquire. Florence P. Belser, Staff Counsel, represented the Commission Staff.

Neil Solinger, President and sole director of One Step, appeared and offered testimony in support of One Step's Application. The record reveals that One Step is a Florida corporation that has been authorized to transact business in South Carolina as a foreign corporation. According to Mr. Solinger, One Step proposes to offer long distance services using resold transmission services of underlying carriers which are duly certified by the Commission. Mr. Solinger explained the Company's request for authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services in South Carolina as a reseller. The record reveals the Company's services, operations and marketing procedures.

Mr. Solinger also explained that One Step possesses the technical, financial and managerial abilities to provide its services in South Carolina. Mr. Solinger testified that the

Company would operate in accordance with the Commission rules, regulations, guidelines, and Commission Orders. Finally, Mr. Solinger offered that approval of One Step's Application is in the public interest as the grant of authority to One Step will create greater competition in the interexchange marketplace and will also provide consumers with a greater choice of billing options and long distance services.

After full consideration of the applicable law, the Company's Application, and the evidence presented at the hearing, the Commission hereby issues its findings of fact and conclusions of law:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. One Step is organized as a corporation under the laws of the State of Florida and is authorized to do business as a foreign corporation in the State of South Carolina by the Secretary of State.

2. One Step operates as a non-facilities based reseller of interexchange services and wishes to provide its services in South Carolina.

3. One Step has the experience, capability, and financial resources to provide the services as described in its Application.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Based on the above findings of fact, the Commission determines that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should be granted to One Step to provide intrastate interLATA service and to originate and terminate toll traffic within the

same LATA, as set forth herein, through the resale of intrastate Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS), Message Telecommunications Service (MTS), Foreign Exchange Service, Private Line Service, or any other services authorized for resale by tariffs of carriers approved by the Commission.

2. The Commission adopts a rate design for One Step for its resale of residential services which includes only maximum rate levels for each tariff charge. A rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels has been previously adopted by the Commission. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications Corporation, etc., Order No. 84-622, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (August 2, 1984).

3. One Step shall not adjust its residential rates below the approved maximum level without notice to the Commission and to the public. With regard to adjustments to residential rates, One Step shall file its proposed rate changes, publish its notice of such changes, and file affidavits of publication with the Commission two weeks prior to the effective date of the changes. However, the public notice requirement is waived, and therefore not required, for reductions below the maximum cap in instances which do not affect the general body of subscribers or do not constitute a general rate reduction. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications, etc., Order No. 93-638, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (July 16, 1993). Any proposed increase in the maximum rate level reflected in the tariff which would be applicable to

the general body of the Company's subscribers shall constitute a general ratemaking proceeding and will be treated in accordance with the notice and hearing provisions of S. C. Code Ann. §58-9-540 (Supp. 1995).

4. With respect to business service offerings, credit card services, operator services, and customer network offerings, tariff filings will be presumed valid upon filing. If the Commission institutes an investigation of a particular filing within seven (7) days, then the tariff filing will be suspended until further Order of the Commission. Any relaxation in the future reporting requirements that may be adopted for AT&T shall apply to One Step also. Staff is instructed to monitor the Company using the same monitoring process and techniques as are used to monitor AT&T.

5. One Step is subject to access charges pursuant to Commission Order No. 86-584, in which the Commission determined that for access purposes resellers should be treated similarly to facilities-based interexchange carriers.

6. With regard to the Company's resale of service, an end-user should be able to access another interexchange carrier or operator service provider if the end-user so desires.

7. One Step shall resell the services of only those interexchange carriers or LECs authorized to do business in South Carolina by this Commission. If One Step changes underlying carriers, it shall notify the Commission in writing.

8. With regard to the origination and termination of toll

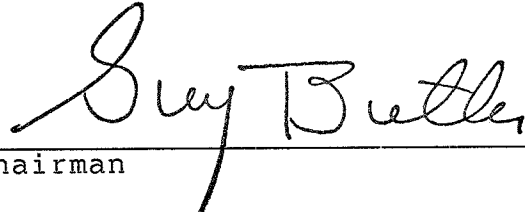
calls within the same LATA, One Step shall comply with the terms of Order No. 93-462, Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement, in Docket Nos. 92-182-C, 92-183-C, and 92-200-C (June 3, 1993).

9. One Step shall file surveillance reports on a calendar or fiscal year basis with the Commission as required by Order No. 88-178 in Docket No. 87-483-C. The proper form for these reports is indicated on Attachment A.

10. The Company shall, in compliance with Commission regulations, designate and maintain an authorized utility representative who is prepared to discuss, on a regulatory level, customer relation (complaint) matters, engineering operations, tests and repairs. In addition, the Company shall provide to the Commission in writing the name of the authorized representative to be contacted in connection with general management duties as well as emergencies which occur during non-office hours. One Step shall file the names, addresses and telephone numbers of these representatives with the Commission within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. Attachment B shall be used to file the name(s) of regulatory compliance personnel. Further, the Company shall promptly notify the Commission in writing if the representatives are replaced, and the Company is directed to comply with the Commission regulations unless waived by the Commission.

11. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Executive Director  
(SEAL)

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FEBRUARY 23, 1998  
ATTACHMENT A

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ANNUAL INFORMATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS  
FOR INTEREXCHANGE COMPANIES AND AOS'S

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COMPANY NAME

---

FEI NO.

---

ADDRESS

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CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

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PHONE NUMBER

- (1) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING REVENUES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING  
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING  
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- (3) RATE BASE INVESTMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS\* FOR 12  
MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* THIS WOULD INCLUDE GROSS PLANT, ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION,  
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES, CASH WORKING CAPITAL, CONSTRUCTION  
WORK IN PROGRESS, ACCUMULATED DEFERRED INCOME TAX,  
CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION AND CUSTOMER DEPOSITS.
- (4) PARENT'S CAPITAL STRUCTURE\* AT DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR  
ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* THIS WOULD INCLUDE ALL LONG TERM DEBT (NOT THE CURRENT PORTION  
PAYABLE), PREFERRED STOCK AND COMMON EQUITY.
- (5) PARENT'S EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR LONG TERM DEBT AND  
EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR PREFERRED STOCK AT YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- (6) ALL DETAILS ON THE ALLOCATION METHOD USED TO DETERMINE THE  
AMOUNT OF EXPENSES ALLOCATED TO SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS AS  
WELL AS METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF COMPANY'S RATE BASE INVESTMENT  
(SEE #3 ABOVE).

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SIGNATURE

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NAME (PLEASE TYPE OF PRINT)

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TITLE



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ATTACHMENT B

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INFORMATION OF THE AUTHORIZED UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES  
FOR INTEREXCHANGE, LOCAL AND AOS COMPANIES

PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
REGULATION 103-612.2.4(b), each utility shall file and  
maintain with the Commission the name, title, address, and  
telephone number of the persons who should be contacted in  
connection with Customer Relations/Complaints.

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Company Name/DBA Name

---

Business Address

---

City, State, Zip Code

---

Authorized Utility Representative (Please Print or Type)

---

Telephone Number

---

Fax Number

---

E-Mail Address

---

This form was completed by

---

Signature

If you have any questions, contact the Consumer Services  
Department at 803-737-5230